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HF Happenings

March 2013

2 and 3 - ARRL DX SSB Contest

3 - SARL Hamnet 40 m contest

9 and 10 - RSGB Commonwealth Contest

16 and 17 - SARL VHF/UHF Contest

20 - Inland schools close; Autumn Equinox

21 - Human Rights Day

22 - Coastal schools holiday

28 - Coastal schools close

29 - Good Friday

30 and 31 - CQ WPX SSB Contest

31 - Easter Sunday

Amateur-created "Varicode" Adopted as ITU Recommendation

On Tuesday, February 19, François Rancy, Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau of the International Telecommunication Union, announced the simultaneous adoption and approval by correspondence of a new Recommendation entitled *Telegraphic Alphabet for Data Communication by Phase Shift Keying at 31 Baud in the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Services*.

The alphabet, commonly called "Varicode" because the more frequently used characters (in the English language) occupy fewer bits, was developed by Peter Martinez, G3PLX, in the 1990s. Martinez was awarded the ARRL Technical Innovation Award for the year 2000 by the ARRL Board of Directors for his development of PSK31, which uses Varicode for transmission efficiency in much the same way as the Morse code. In ITU parlance, it now becomes Recommendation ITU-R M.2034.

Adoption of the Recommendation is the culmination of work conducted in ITU-R Study Group 5 and its Working Party 5A during 2011 and 2012. Working Party 5A is responsible for studies of techniques and frequency usage in the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Services, as well as certain aspects of the land mobile and fixed services. Read more here <http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-created-varicode-adopted-as-itu-recommendation>

DXCC News

Bill Moore, NC1L, ARRL Awards Branch Manager, is now accepting the following operations for DXCC credit - 4S7DXG - Sri Lanka, only operations in 2008 and 2011; 8Q7VR - Maldives, only operations in 2008 and 2011.

If you had credit rejected for contacts with dates during the periods noted, contact dxccrules@arrl.org to be put on the list for an update. Contacts before or after these periods cannot be accepted. Also, in order to expedite the search for these QSOs, please include the application "date received" or "reference number" noted on your credit slip of the submission these were originally rejected.

Important Information regarding Digital DXCC Applications. The DXCC Blog www.arrl.org/dxcc-blog reports: "Before proceeding with an Online DXCC application you 'MUST', first, have Mozilla Firefox installed on your computer. Online DXCC is not compatible with Internet Explorer. If you do not use Firefox please visit this site to download and install this free program: <http://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/>" For the complete announcement, go the DXCC Blog page listed above.



Have you done anything
this week to Promote
Amateur Radio?



SARL Hamnet 40 m Simulated Emergency Contest

This SSB Contest is open to all Radio Amateurs in South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Mozambique, Lesotho, Marion Island and South African Antarctica. Only contacts with these areas will count.

The contest runs from 12:00 to 14:00 UTC on Sunday 3 March 2013, and it is a phone contest in the band segments 7 063 to 7 100 kHz and 7 130 to 7 200 kHz.

Participations can be as a. Single operator stationary mobile, b. Single operator portable, c. Multi-operator portable or d. Single operator base station.

Antennas are limited to antennas with less than unity gain relative to a dipole. Stationary Mobile stations shall use antennas that rely solely on their vehicles for support and shall not exceed a height of 5 metres above ground. Portable station antennas may not be erected and installed before the day of the contest and no permanent manmade structure may be used to either house equipment or for antenna supports.

Stationary Mobile and Portable stations shall operate from the same site for the duration of the contest and all power used shall comply with the requirements for Field Stations in the general rules.

The exchange is a signal report followed by a three-figure number as follows:

Category a: Starting with 201 for the first contact

Category b: Starting with 401 for the first contact

Category c: Starting with 601 for the first contact

Category d: Starting with 801 for the first contact

Non-participants start with 001 for the first contact

Scoring consists of points accumulated from all contacts, multiplied by a multiplier. Contact with a station in:

Category a, b and c in own area is worth 3 points

Category a, b and c in another area is worth 4 points

Category d or non-participant in own area is worth 1 point

Category d or non-participant in another area is worth 2 points

Areas are as defined in the following list:

Area 1: ZS1; Area 2: ZS2; Area 3: ZS3; Area 4: ZS4; Area 5: ZS5; Area 6: ZS6; Area 7 (eastern group): 3DA, 7P, C9, Z2, ZS8 and Area 8 (western group): A2, V5, ZS7

The multiplier consists of the number of call areas worked, multiplied by a power multiplier. The power multiplier is 2 for an output power of over 50 W PEP, and 3 for an output power of less than 50 W PEP.

Logs must be sent to Hamnet Eastern Cape, Al Akers, ZS2U, 53 Clarence Street, Westering, Port Elizabeth, 6025 or by e-mail to contest@peham.co.za. The closing date for log submissions is Monday 11 March 2013.

Antennas and AutoEZ

Dan, AC6LA, has released *AutoEZ*, <http://ac6la.com/autoez.html>, a new Excel application that works in conjunction with the EZNEC antenna modelling programme. You can use *AutoEZ* to control diverse aspects of the model and then run multiple EZNEC test cases while automatically changing one or more variables between runs. *AutoEZ* can take full advantage of all the features new to EZNEC v. 5.0 such as virtual wires, realistic transmission lines with loss, transformers, L networks (which can be combined to form T and Pi networks), and parallel connected loads. The website includes numerous examples of how this powerful tool can be used for antenna system problems, such as designing antenna tuners, stubs, and transmission lines.

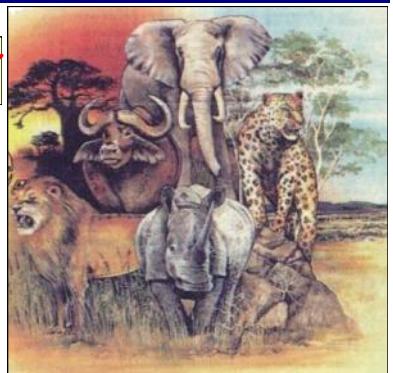
As a means of demonstrating the effects of height above ground, Al, AB2ZY, recommends the charts and figures that accompany this article, <http://www.qsl.net/aa3rl/ant2.html>, as being very useful in visualizing what happens as a dipole is raised and lowered.

Operating Tip

Reviewing one's log checking report is a good way to learn how to get better. Valery, R5GA, just added another - the reverse log generator <http://rate.pileup.ru/vlog.php>. Currently based on the public logs from the 2012 CQ WW DX CW contest, you can enter any call sign - yours, someone else's, or even a busted call - and create a time-ordered list of everyone who worked that station. i.e. - a reverse log!

African DX

Tanzania, 5H. Maurizio, IK2GZU, will once again return to the "Mission Ilembula" to do some work at the new hospital and orphanage between 7 April and 8 May. He plans to be active during his spare time as 5H3MB on the HF bands. Maurizio will use his FT-100 and the mission's TS-850 into a tri-band 3 element beam (20, 15 and 10 m) fixed on Europe and a vertical or dipole for the other bands. QSL via IK2GZU, direct or by the Bureau. Also, LoTW (after his return home). For more details, updates and an online log, visit his Web site at www.buffoli-pm.it/5h/Tanzania%202011.htm



Lesotho, 7P. Peter, EI7CC, will once again be active as 7P8PB from Maseru between 6 and 26 March. Activity will be limited because he will be on a family holiday and will operate when circumstances permit. He will be operating from his brother-in-law Gerry's station, 7P8CC (home call sign EI8CC). QSL via EI7CC, by the Bureau or direct. Logs will be uploaded to LoTW immediately upon his return to Ireland. If possible, Peter may try to upload them while in Lesotho.

Rwanda, G3RWF plans to be in Rwanda between 4 and 12 March and has requested the call sign 9X0NH. The licence should be valid for all of 2013 and he could return later in the year. Activity will be mainly CW. QSL via G3RWF.

African Islands

Marion Island, ZS8C - . Carson, ZR6CWI, has been appointed the Space Weather Engineer and will spend a year on Marion Island (AF-021, WAP ZAF-10, WWFF ZSFF-012). Pierre ZS1HF/ZS8M will be his QSL Manager and reports that Carson will be active as ZS8C from May 2013 to April 2014. He will operate SSB only. More info released in due course.



Mauritius and Rodriguez Islands, 3B8 & 3B9. Operators Toshi, JA8BMK, Ken, JN1THL (AB1GJ) and YL Yoshiko, JQ1LCW (KF7JXL) will be active as 3B9DX from Rodriguez Island (AF-017) between 1 and 10 March. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. The operators will be using a Kenwood TS-590, a Yaesu FT-897D, and a Tokyo Hy-power HL-550fx amp into a Hexbeam, a Windom and a vertical antenna. QSL via EA5GL direct only (w/SASE and IRC/greenstamps). Added Note: If time permits, Toshi, JA8BMK will operate as 3B8/JA8BMK from Mauritius Island (AF-049) on 27 and 28 February. For updates, watch QRZ.com.

Tunisia, 3V. An Italian group, along with the Association des Radio Amateurs Tunisiens (ARAT) and the Engineering University of Gabes, who are planning a second IOTA DXpedition to Djerba Island (AF-083, WFF 3VFF-007, WLOTA L-1394 and ARLHS TUN-022), as TS8TI (will receive the license in March) between 29 April and 6 May, have added two more operators to their operation. Operators mentioned are Luciano, IZ7EVZ, and Fabio, IZ8DSS.

Egypt, SU (New IOTA). Members of the Egyptian Radio Amateur Society for Development (ERASD) plan to be active as SU8N from Geziret Disuqi (aka Nelson's Island), AF-109, an island in the Nile Delta and Sinai Region Group, during May for one week (3 to 10 May). "Nelson's Island" is approximately 20 kilometres east of the Egyptian port of Alexandria, four kilometres north of Cape Aboukir. Nelson's Island is approximately 350 metres by 150 metres. Activity will be on most HF bands. Operators mentioned are Said, SU1SK, Ateff, SU1AO, Hossam, SU1HM and Ayman, SU1AR. Look for more info to be forthcoming.

Also, watch the ERASD's Web page at <http://www.gsl.net/egyptham> and www.facebook.com/events/441478712566533

Special Events

Germany. On 20 June 1913, Wilhelm II (German Emperor) visited the village Eilvese near Hannover on the occasion of the completion of building a 258 meter high radio tower, at that time the highest in Germany. The special event call sign DL1000UI (SDOK 1000UI) will be active throughout the year to remember the 100th anniversary of the first commercial radio contact between Germany and the USA from this location. OUI were the call letters of the German station at that time, the US station was located in Tuckerton, NJ.

Belarus. The radio club "Dalnye Strany" celebrates its golden jubilee in March with the special call EV50WB. QSL via EU1AZ (SSB) und via EU1DX (CW, RTTY), LoTW.

Poland. Until 5 March, the club station SP6PNZ will use the special call 3Z55OP on the occasion of the 55th anniversary of the amateur radio club in Opole. An award is available (see website). QSL via SP6PNZ. <http://www.sp6pnz.republika.pl/> <http://ot11pzk.wordpress.com/regulami/>

On the occasion of the 20th company anniversary of "Bombardier Transportation (Rail Engineering) Polska Spolka" the special call 3Z20RE will be active on the bands until mid April. An award is available, see QRZ.COM. QSL via SP5DZC.

In March the special call sign SN150BPM will commemorate the great battle of Malogoscz in 1863. QSL via SP7PCA.

Russia. The club station RK3YWA from Brjansk will use the special call R100AIP until 6 March to commemorate the 100th birthday of A. I. Pokryshkin, three times hero of the Soviet Union, who headed the DOSAAF (Volunteer Society for Cooperation with the Army) for 8 years after the war and who was an accomplished supporter of radio sport in the USSR. QSL via RW3YW.

The special event call RG61PP will, from March to May, celebrate the Day of the Cosmonaut (12 April) and the birthday of Yuri Gagarin (9 March 1934).

Until 3 March, the special call sign R2013CG will be on the air on the occasion of the 6th "International Children's Winter Games." QSL via UA8WAA. <http://www.icg-ufa2013.com/eng/>

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 25 February to 4 March 2013

CWops Mini-CWT Test

13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 27 February and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 28 February

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each call once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 2 March 2013

Post log summary at:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.cwops.org/onair.html>

QRP Fox Hunt

02:00 - 03:30 UTC 1 March

Mode: CW

Bands: 80 m Only

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Classes: Single Op - fox or hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 2 March 2013

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

http://www.grpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

NCCC Sprint

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 1 March

Mode: (see rules)

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 3 March 2013

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

ARRL International DX SSB Contest

00:00 UTC 2 March to 24:00 UTC 3 March

Mode: SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band - QRP, low or high; Single Op Single Band; Single Op Unlimited - low or high;

Multi-Single - low or high; Multi-Two; Multi-Multi

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: W/VE: RS and state or province; non-W/VE: RS and power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 3 points per QSO

Multipliers: W/VE: Each DXCC country once per band;

Non-W/VE: Each state, District of Columbia, VE province/territory once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 2 April 2013

E-mail logs to: DXPhone@arrl.org

Mail logs to: ARRL Intl DX Contest, Phone, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111, USA

Find rules at: <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

Wake-Up! QRP Sprint

06:00 - 06:29 UTC; 06:30 - 06:59 UTC; 07:00 - 07:29 UTC and 07:30 - 08:00 UTC 2 March

Mode: CW

Bands: 40, 20 m

Classes: (none)

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, serial no and suffix of previous QSO ("QRP" for 1st QSO)

Work stations: Once per band per period

QSO Points: 1 point per km

Multipliers: 1 point per new station worked on each band

Word to the Wise

Let's put the "op" back in operators

Dave, KM3T

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total multiplier points

Submit logs by: 9 March 2013

E-mail logs to: ru-qrp-club@mail.ru

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://qrp.ru/contest/wakeup/333-wakeup-eng>

Open Ukraine RTTY Championship

20:00 - 22:59 UTC (Low Band) and 23:00 UTC 2 March to 01:59 UTC 3 March (Low Band) and 08:00 - 10:59 UTC (High Band) and 11:00 - 13:59 UTC 3 March (High Band)

Mode: RTTY

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op Multi-Band; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Op Multi-Band

Exchange: 2-letter regional abbreviation - state, province, canton, etc. and serial no (restart serial no for high band)

Work stations: Once per band per period

QSO Points: 2 points per QSO; 10 points per new region once per band per period

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total points

Submit logs by: 20 March 2013

E-mail logs to: krs@model.poltava.ua

Mail logs to: George Ignatov (UT1HT), PO Box 87, Kremenchug-21 39621, Ukraine

Find rules at:

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<http://uarl.com.ua/openrtty/2013/rtty2013e.txt>

DARC 10-Metre Digital Contest

11:00 - 17:00 UTC 3 March

Mode: RTTY, Amtor, Clover, PSK31, Pactor

Bands: 10 m Only

Classes: Single Op; SWL

Exchange: RST and serial no

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each WAE/DCXX area; Each W/VE call area

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points × total mults

Submit logs by: 18 March 2013

E-mail logs to: do1npf@darc.de

Mail logs to: Peter Frank, DO1NPF, Postfach 11 19, 90515 Altdorf, Germany

Find rules at:

<http://www.darc.de/referate/ukw-funksport/corona/teilnahmeverbedingungen/>

SARL Hamnet 40 m Simulated Emergency Contest

12:00 - 14:00 UTC 3 March

Mode: SSB

Bands: 40 m Only

Classes: A: Single Op Stationary Mobile; B: Single Op Portable; C: Multi-Op Portable; D: Single Op Base Station

Exchange: Class A: RS and serial no (starting with 201); Class B: RS and serial no (starting with 401); Class C: RS and serial no (starting with 601); Class D:



RS and serial no (starting with 801);

Non-participants: RS and serial no (starting with 001)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 11 March 2013

E-mail logs to: contest@peham.co.za

Mail logs to: Hamnet Eastern Cape, Al Akers, ZS2U, 53 Clarence Street, Westering, Port Elizabeth 6025,

South Africa

Find rules at:

http://www.sarl.org.za/Documents/SARL_Contest_Manual_2013_Issue_11.pdf

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, Data

20:00 - 21:30 UTC 4 March

Mode: RTTY, PSK

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST and serial no

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 11 March 2013

Upload log at: <http://www.vhfcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2013/r80mcc.shtml>

Next Week's Contests

ARS Spartan Sprint, 02:00 - 04:00 UTC 5 March

AGCW YL-CW Party, 19:00 - 21:00 UTC 5 March

QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 6 March

AWA John Rollins Memorial DX Contest, 23:00 UTC 6 March to 23:00 UTC 7 March and 23:00 UTC 9 March to 23:00 UTC 10 March

QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 8 March

NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 8 March

RSGB Commonwealth Contest, 10:00 UTC 9 March to 10:00 UTC 10 March

AGCW QRP Contest, 14:00 - 20:00 UTC 9 March

North American RTTY Sprint, 00:00 - 04:00 UTC 10 March

SARL VHFUHF analogue and digital contest, 10:00 UTC 16 March to 10:00 UTC 17 March

Results of the February 2013 SARL National Field Day

The committee received 19 logs for the February 2013 leg of the SARL National Field Day. Fifteen of these stations headed for the outdoors and set-up field stations at resorts or camping areas. The new Class E drew 2 participants.

The Free State has decided to shock the country and with three entries, takes first, second and tenth spot. The ZS6 call area has 11 entries, KwaZulu-Natal has 3 entries and one each from the Eastern Cape and Lesotho. Eight of the nine South African provinces are shown in the logs, Limpopo was very quiet.

Unfortunately the committee also noted that some participants did not (and probably have not) read the contest rules in the 2013 SARL Contest Manual. The Field Day is one contest and all phone, CW and digital QSOs are logged on the same log sheet. I confirm once again that NO RS(T) report is required, only the number of transmitters, class of participation and your provincial abbreviation. Any station not signing ZU, ZR, ZS or ZT is classed as DX. There are only 10 provincial multipliers.

Class A - Field Station - Multi operator

- 1st Welkom ARC, ZS4WRC - 89 208 points
- 2nd Bloemfontein ARC, ZS4BFN - 66 096 points
- 3rd Magalies ARK, ZS6MRK - 63 720 points
- 4th West Rand ARC, ZS6WR - 61 452 points
- 5th Pretoria ARC, ZS6PTA - 49 646 points
- 6th East Rand ARC, ZS6ERB - 48 924 points
- 7th Rustenburg ARC, ZS6RTB - 28 080 points
- 8th Zululand ARC, ZS5ZLB - 23 232 points
- 9th Secunda ARC, ZS6SRC - 21 408 points
- 10th Sasolburg ARC, ZS4SRK - 13 944 points



ZS6MRK

Class B - Field Station -Multi operator - QRP

None



ZS6SRC

Class C - Field Station -Single Operator

- 1st Marius Snyman, ZR6MS/4 - 24 576 points
- 2nd Andries Visagie, ZS6VL/4 - 13 320 points

Class D - Field Station -Single Operator - QRP

- 1st Dick Hayter, ZS6RSH - 10 800 points

Class E - Ultra light portable

- 1st Pierre van Deventer, ZS6A - 10 350 points
- 2nd Eddie Leighton, ZS6BNE - 3 510 points

Class F - General stations

- 1st Pravin Kumar, ZS5LT - 11 088 points
- 2nd Ken Gurr, ZR5KW/6 - 9 792 points
- 3rd Port Elizabeth ARS, ZS2PE - 6 876 (operated by Theunis, ZS2EC)
- 4th Chris de Beer, 7P8RI - 2 408 points



ZS4BFN

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Well done to all the participants and congratulations to the Class winners.

Start your planning now for the November leg of the National Field Day. It is scheduled for the weekend of 16 and 17 November 2013.

Tony's 10 Metre Band Report

9U4U (Burundi, Eastern Africa) was probably the most popular DX all week with XT2TT (Burkina Faso, West Africa formally Upper Volta) giving him a run for his money. Most activity was at the weekend as usual but we did get a mid week peak on Wednesday.

Abdul, 9W2JDD, sent in a report even though things were not too good. On Wednesday he worked J28UC 5/8 and says, "The propagation is not good enough to receive any other calls, I need to be more patient while "hunting". Thursday, "Worked TO1FF 5/8. The weather and propagation not at our side. Still difficult to work on 10 meters. Saturday heard: FR4NT and RT7T. I try to participate in France contest, but once again not at right time, I have another matter I need to resolve."

Andy, MOHLT, worked A71BO—RST rx 5/5, (Friday) UR9MC-5/9 ,RV9DC 5/5 (Monday) US1GCU 5/6,A61LL -5/8 , UR4MSF-5/9 (today) and heard WB6BJN very weak with QSB and 5B4?? Cyprus. He comments: "G'day Tony, well not so good this past week, but! A71BO QATAR and A61LL U.A.E....were both new ones for me on ANY band, again things seem to happen mid/ late morning then drop off at lunch time, until around dusk / grey line 'ish. Home this week with the dreaded paper work!!! 73" Cheers Andy

PSK only DXpedition

Chatham Islands, ZL7. Jim, ZL1LC, will be active as ZL7LC from Chatham Island (OC-038) between 14 and 20 March as a micro DXpedition and running PSK31 only. He announced this week on QRZ.com, "This is to give PSKers around the world, especially those in PODXS 070, DMC and EPC, an opportunity to work this DXCC entity on their mode of choice. The rigs will be Icom 7200 and 7000 with vertical antennas operating on 7,035, 14,070, 21,070 and 28,120 MHZ. I will be operating on the highest bands that are open. Please don't email me asking me to run another mode or operate on another frequency. Such emails will be treated as SPAM. To make quicker QSOs and allow more contacts, please send only your RST report and your name. I will QSL the RST. If a pileup develops, I will ask you to go UP 100 - 400 Hz. Please operate in a SPLIT mode and transmit 100 to 400 Hertz above your receive frequency. I will be able to read your call and respond to you."

He also reported that his QSL Manager will be EB7DX and direct (w/2 green stamps and SAE). NO Bureau. For more details and an online log (ClubLog), see QRZ.com.



Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newsline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News and Southgate ARC